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Cultural Economic Development Program

At-a-Glance

Massachusetts' exceptional cultural offerings contribute to the high quality of life available to our citizens and to the competitive strength of the Massachusetts economy. The Cultural Economic Development (CED) Program seeks to strengthen the economic impact of culture by making a direct connection between culture and economic development. CED supports the innovative and entrepreneurial use of cultural assets in projects undertaken by partnerships of cultural and non-cultural organizations. CED projects are distinguished by their use of culture to stimulate income and employment-producing activity.

The CED Program will support community-based projects that:

- use culture to produce new economic activity, as measured by an increase in employment, business enterprises or other income-generating activity;
- create sustainable, innovative development models that can be replicated throughout and beyond the Commonwealth;
- require seed funding for early stage planning or implementation;
- respond to a clearly defined community need or opportunity;
- create enduring partnerships among three or more cultural and non-cultural organizations.

In addition to grant support, CED provides ongoing technical support to funded projects and convenes all project partners for a workshop at least once a year.

Terms of Funding

CED provides grants of up to $50,000 per year, per project. Grants are approved on a one-year basis with continuing support contingent upon evaluation of each project's development. Grants may be used to cover the cost of research, planning, technical assistance, staffing or project support. CED grants must be matched with cash on a 1:1 basis.

Eligible Applicants
The CED program will support partnerships involving three or more cultural and non-cultural organizations. The **primary applicant** must be a not-for-profit entity based or incorporated in Massachusetts. This may include private, not-for-profit organizations such as community development corporations, cultural institutions or local arts agencies; or public sector entities such as municipalities or regional and tribal agencies. **Partners** may include any of these organizations as well as private, for-profit organizations, educational and religious institutions, and state agencies.

Application Deadlines
Applications to the CED Program will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed by a standing Advisory Committee that meets several times a year. As with all MCC grants, final authority over grant decisions rests with the MCC board. Please contact CED staff for upcoming deadlines.

How to Apply

1) Discuss the project with CED staff.
2) Submit a brief letter of intent that, in no more than two pages, describes the project concept, community need or opportunity, economic goals and beneficiaries, and project partners.
3) Complete a full application, available from the MCC.

Application Review Process
Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their projects with CED staff prior to and throughout the application process. Formal application begins with submission of a brief letter of intent. Following staff review and ongoing discussion with the applicant, completed applications will be brought to a standing CED Advisory Committee that meets several times a year. The Committee will review the proposals according to criteria that evaluate each project on the basis of its concept and context; design; and management and finances. The Committee's funding recommendations will be voted upon by the MCC board.

For further information on the CED Program, contact:

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